

*The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*

## About the Author

The Blitz  
Began: Sept. 7, 1940  
Ended: May 11, 1941  
Blitz comes from German word -  
blitzkrieg =  
lightening war

C.S. Lewis was born on November 29, 1898, in Belfast, Ireland. His father was a lawyer. He attended various schools and was privately tutored before entering University College in Oxford, England. Wounded in World War I, he returned to Oxford, then Cambridge, as a professor of Medieval and Renaissance English literature.

Although he wrote many books for scholars, most people know Dr. Lewis through reading his books dealing with Christianity. Reared an Anglican Christian, he became an atheist in his teens for personal and philosophical reasons and did not return to Christianity until his early thirties. After rediscovering the truths of his faith, he began to share them in new and creative ways in his books.



*Mere Christianity* (1952) is a collection of radio talks he made for the British Broadcasting Corporation. *The Screwtape Letters* (1942) is his most popular book. It consists of letters of advice from the devil Screwtape to his nephew, Wormwood, on how to tempt and destroy a young Christian convert. *The Great Divorce* (1945) describes a bus trip from hell to heaven. His *Pieralandra* (1943) trilogy is a science fiction account of the cosmic struggle between good and evil.

"My father bought all the books he read and never got rid of any of them . . . In the seemingly endless rainy afternoons I took volume after volume from the shelves." Even as a boy, Lewis enjoyed writing fantasy books of his own in an attic room of his house. "I wrote about chivalrous mice and rabbits who rode out in complete mail to kill not giants but cats." From a childhood immersed in books and writing came a life-long habit of writing.

*The Narnia Chronicles* for children were published from 1950 to 1956. *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, *The Magician's Nephew*, *The Last Battle* and other books in the series retell the Christian story in a fairy tale form. For Lewis, the "fantasy" world of Narnia is often more real than in the world we live in because there, in Narnia, the struggle between good and evil is made very clear. Lewis died on November 22, 1963, the same day U.S. President John F. Kennedy was assassinated.

Quotations for this biographical sketch were taken from "C.S. Lewis," *Something About the Author*, Volume 13, page 132.

Left London:

School children - 800,000

Teachers/helpers - 100,000

Children under 5 - 500,000

School age

Use these events to complete your timeline.

**1931** -- Lewis became a Christian: One evening in September, Lewis had a long talk on Christianity with J.R.R. Tolkien (a devout Roman Catholic) and Hugo Dyson. That evening's discussion was important in bringing about the following days event that Lewis recorded in *Surprised by Joy*: When we (Warnie and Jack) set out (by motorcycle to the Whipsnade Zoo) "I did not believe that Jesus Christ was the Son of God, and when we reached the zoo I did."

**1963** - Lewis died at 5:30 p.m. at the Kilns, one week before his 65<sup>th</sup> birthday on Friday, November 22, after a variety of illnesses, including a heart attack and kidney problems. This same day, American president John F. Kennedy was assassinated. His grave is in the yard of Holy Trinity Church in Headington Quarry, Oxford.

**1911-1913** - Studied at Cherbourg School, Malvern England, following Warren; remained remarkably poor in mathematics, unlike his mother, but evidenced an increased affection for "Northernness" e.g. Wagner's music and Norse mythology. It was during this time that he abandoned his childhood Christian faith.

**1950-1956** - Wrote the seven Chronicles of Narnia

1950 - *The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe*

1951 - *Prince Caspian*

1952 - *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*

1953 - *The Silver Chair*

1954 - *The Horse and His Boy*

1955 - *The Magician's Nephew*

1956 - *The Last Battle*

**1898** - Born Clive Staples Lewis, November 29 in Belfast, Northern Ireland, to Albert and James Lewis and Flora Augusta Hamilton Lewis. His brother, Warren Hamilton Lewis had been born on June 16, 1895.

**1919** - "Death in Battle," published in the February issue of the *Reveille*, was Lewis' first publication other than school magazines. This story was based on Lewis' service in the British army between 1917 and 1918.